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Life is not possible without an opening toward the transcendent; in other words, human beings cannot live in chaos.”  
(From The Sacred And The Profane, by Mircea Eliade.)

In this course we will develop the thesis that all human conceptualization comes in and through the symbolic forms that we construct; that among these symbolic forms, myth holds an important place; and that, therefore, the terms “myth” and “untruth” are not synonymous. In fact, this semester we will ask and attempt to answer the question: “To what extent does our grasp of reality come to us in the form of our myths?”

Reading List

The speed with which we cover these materials will depend upon both the needs and the interests of the students in the class. The due dates of all the assignments will be announced at least one week before any discussion or any quizzes over the material. In the case of longer works, more preparation time will be allowed. From time to time, additional texts will be made available in the form either of handouts, materials on reserve at the library, or in the lectures.

3. Job, Aug. 31
17. The poetry of Frost, Eliot, and Stevens. (You will be reading the novel Madame Bovary, by Gustave Flaubert, and working on your term-papers while we are covering the poetry in class.)
18. Term-papers due. Nov. 16.

We will write two papers on the material covered to that date, a term-paper, and a final examination. The two papers will each count as 20% of your final grade, the term-paper as 20 %, the final as 20%. In addition, we will have frequent objective quizzes covering the material due on that day. The quizzes will be curved and will count as 20% of your final grade.

The essays will be graded on the basis of two considerations only: the degree to which they display a close familiarity with the reading, and the degree to which they approximate standard English.

Attendance Policy: No work missed during an unexcused absence will be made up.

Documented Disability: If you have a documented disability which requires that you receive individual consideration, please let me know as soon as possible.